
The Organizational meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, on Live Stream. Ms. Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:09a.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Jackson called the meeting to order.

Reelected council Member Hill, Smith-Lee and Cuthbert all took oath of office.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Council Member Darrin Hill
Council Member John A. Hart, Sr.
Council Member Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Administration:
City Manager Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides
City Attorney Anthony Williams
Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson, CMC

Ms. Jackson stated, "Before we begin the meeting can I get Council Member Hill, Smith-Lee and Cuthbert to state that you have taken Oath of Office."

All three members of council stated that they have taken Oath of Office.

3. **BUSINESS OR REPORTS FOR/FROM THE MAYOR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:**

a. Nomination and appointment of Mayor

Ms. Jackson stated, "We are going to be taking nominations and considerations for the approval of the Mayor. This is how we are going to do it. You can raise your hands and speak up and let me know who is the nomination that you would like to choose. And once we have the nominations on the floor, whichever is the first nomination, we are going to go down that line and we are going to take the vote for it. If we receive all votes or at least four 'yes's' then that will be our vote. And then the other nominations we will not have to do because we would have already made a vote to choose for the majority of that person. Is that clear for everyone?"

Council Member Cuthbert stated that he nominates Sam Parham for Mayor and Darrin Hill for Vice Mayor.

Ms. Jackson recognized Council Member Smith-Lee.

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, "Is this the appropriate time to ask if we can go into closed session for a personnel issue."

Ms. Jackson stated, "We can go into closed session. Mr. Williams."

Mr. Williams stated, "I need to know what the personnel item is. If you want to discuss the decorum and process, I think the Mayor has the language for that. If it is something else, I need to know the specific substance is. If it is just discussing the process and decorum of the Rules of Council pertaining this matter and you are seeking legal advice on that subject, I think that that Mayor has that information that he can provide closed session for."

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, "I really think we should go into closed session because of some matters that I think that we should discuss before we make this decision."

Mr. Williams stated, "Mayor, if you do not have that email that I sent you I can read it for you."

Council Member Parham stated, "I do not have the email. Mr. Williams if you can read it please."

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to add a closed session for the purpose of consultation of legal counsel. I would need someone to add it then it would have to be a unanimous vote and then I will read the actual motion if it passes by unanimous vote."

Council Member Smith-Lee made a motion to go into closed session for the reasons noted by the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved by voice vote. On voice vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, Hart, Parham

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to convene in the closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of receiving legal advice and status update from the City Attorney and legal consultation regarding the subject of specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney. Specifically including but not limited to the discussion of matters requiring legal advice from the City Attorney including legal requirements of Section 7 Article 5 of the Rules of Council."

Council Member Hill made a motion to go into closed session for reason noted by the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, Hart and Parham

City Council entered closed session at 10:21a.m.

CERTIFICATION:

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to conclude the closed session called this evening to certify in accordance with §2.2-3712 that the Code of Virginia that to the best of each members knowledge that only public business matter lawfully exempted from the opening meeting requirements were discussed and that only such public business matters were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, heard, discussed, or considered. If any member believes that there was a departure from the foregoing requirements should so state prior to the vote indicating the substance for departure that in his or her judgment has taken place. This requires a roll call vote."

Council Member Myers made a motion to return City Council into open session and certify the purposes of the closed session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was no discussion on the motion.

The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Hart and Parham

21-R-2 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING, AS REQUIRED BY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, SECTION 2.2-3712, THAT TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF VIRGINIA LAW WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED SESSION, AND ONLY SUCH PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION CONVENING THE CLOSED SESSION WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED.

City Council returned to opened session at 10:40a.m.

Council Member Cuthbert made a nomination for Samuel Parham to be Mayor and Darrin Hill to be Vice Mayor. The nomination was not approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hill and Parham; Voting No: Myers, Wilson-Smith and Smith-Lee; Absent: Hart

Council Member Myers made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented for the order of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

Council Member Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee and Hill nominated Council Member Parham to be the Mayor.

Council Member Parham stated, "I just want to thank everyone for having faith in my leadership at this point in time. I have continued to help lead the council and move the City to the next phase of council's desire to make this City better for everybody. Thank you."

The nomination was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Wilson-Smith, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

21-R-3 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SAMUEL PARHAM AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

b. Nomination and appointment of Vice Mayor

Council Member Cuthbert nominated Council Member Hill.

Council Member Myers nomination Council Member Smith-Lee and himself.

Mayor Parham asked Ms. Jackson to call the roll call for the nomination on Council Member Darrin Hill.

The motion was not approved on roll call for the nomination of Darrin Hill as Vice Mayor. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hill and Parham; Voting No: Wilson-Smith, Myers and Smith-Lee; Absent: Hart

The nomination for Council Member Hill failed.

Mayor Parham stated, "Next, we will move on the Annette Smith-Lee as Vice Mayor. Madam Clerk please call the roll."

The motion was approved on roll call for the nomination of Annette Smith-Lee as Vice Mayor. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert and Hill; Absent: Hart

21-R-4 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANNETTE SMITH-LEE AS VICE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee stated, "Thank you so much."

c. Review and Adoption of City Council Rules of Council and Procedure.

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time all council members have been given the opportunity to submit changes to the Rules of Council. We also have a PowerPoint here. Mrs. Benavides you want to run this through."

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Mayor and council. What you have before you is that we did something a little different this time. We tried to go through and ask for comments. We had the City Attorney to review it and we had staff to review it and to make recommendations. I think moving forward in the future this would be a great way to run through what is in the Rules of Council and give some cleanup with the assistance of the City Attorney as we go through some of it."

Mrs. Benavides presented a PowerPoint with suggestions on the Rules of Council.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Mayor Parham stated, "Being that we are operating under the emergency order right now would council want to have a separate meeting to go through these Rules of Council before we make any changes and continue operating the way we are. To give everyone a chance to digest the presentation. And we will schedule it for the first of next week. That will give everyone time to digest this. I will entertain a motion to table."

Council Member Myers made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Smith-Lee and Parham; Absent: Hart

4. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor